

J U N E 1 9 9 7

TreeLink News

In the works

DNR URBAN and COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

With warmer weather upon us, we can appreciate how important trees are in keeping our communities cool. According to the American Forestry Association, urban areas, with their expanses of concrete, build up "heat islands" that are 3-5 degrees Celsius hotter than surrounding areas. Trees around homes and in communities are particularly valuable in addressing the carbon dioxide problem because of their effect in breaking up "heat islands" by shading buildings and concrete, and lowering peak energy needs for air conditioning.

CONDUCTING A TREE INVENTORY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY (Part II)

Collecting Data

The only way to acquire the information needed for management is by inspecting the trees and recording the information. Designing an appropriate inventory method requires making decisions. Those conducting the inventory must decide how much of the community will be inventoried, which areas will be completed first, who will collect the data (volunteers, interns, staff or consultants), and what information is needed. Once these decisions are made, members must determine how to use, store, and analyze the information. They also must decide who will be responsible for organizing and maintaining the information.

Perhaps the most important decision is whether to identify the location of every tree. Locating each tree significantly adds to the time and cost of gathering the information. Many smaller communities only need summary information on the number, size, species, and condition of trees by street. A standard inventory form (see enclosed form) will simplify the collection of data and allow several people to help with the inventory. A page can be used for each street, so that tree species, planting spaces, and trees in poor condition can be located and readily found on that street. The data that can be placed on an inventory form and is most commonly collected and used in a tree inventory are:

- ✍ The location of the tree (by street name, and block or building number).
- ✍ The name of the tree species or its abbreviation.
- ✍ The diameter of the tree's trunk in 2- to 5-inch classes.
- ✍ The condition of the tree (good, fair, poor, dead/dying).
- ✍ Any trees that need urgent work or removal.
- ✍ The location of potential planting sites for new trees.
- ✍ Potential constraints on planting spaces, such as utility wires and narrow tree lawns.
- ✍ The location and extent of tree damage to sidewalks and curbs.

Another important decision is whether to walk or ride while collecting data. Driving in a car with one or two people recording the data is faster and more comfortable, but a more thorough and accurate inspection requires walking. A driving or 'windshield' inventory does not allow the recorders to notice all indicators of tree health or safety. The windshield method is better used for a general overview of trees and quick estimates of tree numbers, planting vacancies, or special problems like topped trees. Regardless of whether they walk or ride, data gatherers must have good knowledge and training to identify tree types, recognize planting sites, and evaluate pruning needs and other tree conditions. Research has shown that community volunteers with good training and supervision can collect information on tree species, condition, and maintenance needs. Volunteers cannot be relied on to evaluate and identify hazardous trees so professional arborists should be consulted when dealing with hazardous trees.

Summarizing and Using Data

A personal computer offers an efficient means of managing and manipulating tree inventory data. A tree inventory program is simply a data base with individual data records for every tree. Computerized systems can be easily maintained and changes can be made as soon as tree removals, maintenance work, and planting occur. More importantly, the computer allows the user to quickly organize and tabulate the data into a variety of formats or reports.

In order to monitor the progress of a community forest, it is necessary to perform periodic inventory updates. In larger municipalities, maintaining a street inventory should become an annual or even weekly activity. A rotational schedule should be developed so that a portion of the community is inventoried each year. This will result in a total inventory update every five to ten years. Community workers can take the opportunity to update the tree inventory as they complete work in different areas. For example, new inventory data could be collected in conjunction with tree pruning work. Maintaining the tree inventory will keep the data updated, which will in turn provide reliable and useful records of community trees.

-Adapted from an article in Sylvan Communities-Volume 1, Number 2.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands
Kaleen Cottingham - Supervisor

In the works (continued)

"Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees."

-Karle Wilson Baker

TRIVIA: 850 native and naturalized species of trees grow in the United States. Which species has the largest range?

(answers upside down below)

Picks and Shovels

On the Horizon

The purpose of the Washington Urban and Community Forestry Program is to assist communities and nonprofit groups in building self-sustaining urban forestry and tree care programs with strong local support.

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1997 COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Washington Department of Natural Resources has awarded 9 urban forestry grants to Washington communities and a non-profit organization in the 1997 grant competition. A total of \$44,775 was awarded for a wide range of projects. Projects included tree board formation, urban forest management plans, inventories, street tree plantings, public awareness programs, hazard tree surveys and ordinance development. Congratulations to the following grant recipients: Clarkston, Duvall, Grandview, Kent, Metaline, PlantAmensty, Tukwila, Yakima and Yelm.

OMAK TREE STEWARD WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

Twelve people from 8 communities participated in a two-day tree steward workshop May 3-4 in Omak. The workshop, sponsored by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington Community Forestry Council, provided training in the areas of tree biology, identification, selection, site selection, planting and maintenance. As part of the hands-on portion of the training, the participants planted a donated green ash in Civic League Park. After completing the workshop, the goal is to have the participants take an active role in the care of their community trees. A big thanks goes out to all of the instructors, the Wenatchee Valley College and Gardner Gardens for making this workshop a great success. If you are interested in attending a tree steward workshop or hosting one in your community, please give us a call at (800)523-8733 or (360)902-1704.

CALLING ALL POTENTIAL TREE CITY USA'S

We are looking for new communities to accept the challenge of becoming a Tree City USA for 1997. Hundreds of towns and cities across America are achieving public attention and national recognition for their community forestry programs by becoming Tree City USAs. To attain Tree City status, there are four standards that must be met:

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Community Tree Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of \$2 Per Capita
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

No matter what size your community, these standards are workable and obtainable. We would be more than happy to assist your community with the application process. Please give us a call at (800)523-8733 or (360)902-1704.

The Citizen Forestry Support System is offering these tipsheets for free, please call (800)323-1560.

- The Care and Feeding of Volunteers
- The Making of Leaders
- Raising Money Through Membership
- Developing Media Savvy
- Avoiding Burnout
- How to Run An Effective Meeting
- Plan Now-Or Pay Later
- Assessing Your Organization

June

ProHort Series: Protecting Trees During Construction, University of WA, Seattle (206)685-2590.

1 Deadline for National Urban Forest Conference Scholarships. Contact tish carr at (360)902-1703.

11 PlantAmnesty Meeting of Like Minds, Topic-Beyond Lady Bugs: How to attract and keep beneficials to your garden. 7pm-9pm, CUH-Douglas classroom. Contact Cass Turnbull at (206)783-9813.

12 Washington Community Forestry Council meeting at the Water Resource Center in Vancouver, WA from 9:00-3:00. Contact tish carr at (360)902-1703.

21 The 3rd Annual Summer Picnic for Tree Steward volunteers, family and friends. 11am-2pm, Camp Long 5200 35th SW, Seattle. All are welcome, bring a dish to share and swap tree stories. Contact Liz Ellis at (206)684-5008.

22 PlantAmnesty Garden Tour-Jean's Garden, 11am-1pm. Contact Cass Turnbull at (206)783-9813.

July

Tree Steward Summer Training Class, July 12, 19, 26, El Centro De La Raza, 2524 16th Ave S. Seattle. Learn the basics about trees, planting and care so that you can be a tree steward for your block. C size limited to 25, registration is \$25.00 and includes field guide and t-shirt. Application and advanced sign up requiredContact Liz Ellis at (206)684-5008.

24-26 Workshop: How to Teach Youth About Trees and Environmental Stewardship, Nebraska City NE. Contact National Arbor Day Foundation at (402)474-5655.